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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,082	03/02/2004	Todd W. Steigerwald	5867-00300	2947
35617	7590	06/27/2006	EXAMINER	
DAFFER MCDANEIL LLP			NGUYEN, HUY D	
P.O. BOX 684908			ART UNIT	
AUSTIN, TX 78768			PAPER NUMBER	
			2617	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/791,082

Applicant(s)

STEIGERWALD ET AL.

Examiner

Huy D. Nguyen

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6, 9-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2617.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 4/11/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the remarks, the applicant submitted that Sawada fails to disclose intercepting and **redirecting** the radiated electromagnetic energy. The examiner responds that it has been known in the art that resonator or resonant circuit reflects a fraction of electromagnetic energy. Thus, the limitation “**redirecting** the radiated electromagnetic energy” is read.

The applicant also submitted that there is no motivation to combine the two references. The examiner responds that both references are in the same field: electromagnetics. The motivation to combine the two reference: to improve the capability of apparatus since it can absorb the electromagnetic waves located within an arbitrary wavelength range by setting the antenna portion to such an arbitrary length defined by considering the wavelength of the electromagnetic wave to be absorbed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2617

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hui et al. (US 2005/0041624) in view of Sawada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,536).

Regarding claim 1, Hui et al. teaches an apparatus for reducing electromagnetic interference between a pair of antennas (e.g., components 920 and 1010) attached to a wireless communications device, wherein the apparatus is positioned proximate to a second antenna of the pair of antennas for intercepting electromagnetic energy radiated from a first antenna of the pair of antennas during transmission of a signal (see figures 8 and 11, paragraphs [0069], [0072], [0080]).

Hui et al. does not clearly teach that the apparatus comprises a plurality of resonant circuit elements, each being configured to resonate at or near a carrier frequency of the transmitted signal for redirecting at least a portion of the electromagnetic energy away from the second antenna, thereby reducing the electromagnetic interference at the second antenna. However, the preceding limitation is taught in Sawada et al. (see column 5, lines 19-41). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of Sawada et al. to teaching of Hui et al. to improve the capability of said apparatus since it can absorb the electromagnetic waves located within an arbitrary wavelength range by setting the antenna portion to such an arbitrary length defined by considering the wavelength of the electromagnetic wave to be absorbed.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Hui et al. and Sawada et al. the apparatus of claim 1, wherein combined operation of the plurality of resonant circuit elements enable the apparatus

Art Unit: 2617

to operate over a relatively wide range of band-gap frequencies (see Sawada et al.: column 3, lines 12-19).

Regarding claims 7-8, the combination of Hui et al. and Sawada et al. the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to resonate by setting various dimensions of the apparatus to some fraction of a wavelength of the transmitted signal (see Sawada et al.: column 3, lines 12-19).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3-6, 9-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 3, the cited prior arts, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the apparatus of claim 2, wherein the relatively wide range of band-gap frequencies comprises the carrier frequency of the transmitted signal, and extends approximately two to four octaves above the carrier frequency.

Regarding claim 9, the cited prior arts, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the apparatus of claim 8, wherein the plurality of resonant circuit elements form a periodic surface that is substantially less than one-tenth of the transmission signal wavelength.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huy D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7845. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

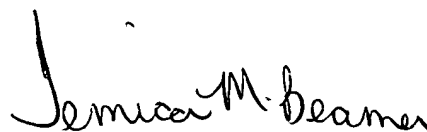
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Huy D Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2617



TEMICA BEAMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER